

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03717 01 OF 02 220732Z

16

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 CEQ-02 HEW-08 SCI-06

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 SR-02 ORM-03

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P R 212011Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9803

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3717

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNWPC, SPOP

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT--
PETERSON STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT PASS COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1. GOVERNOR PETERSON, DEPUTY HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION TO WPC
SPOKE TO THE WPC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT ON THE
MORNING OF AUGUST 21.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS:

I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN WITH DELEGATES FROM NATIONS
AROUND THEWORLD TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF POPULATION ON OUR
RESOURCES, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE
OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

I SENSE THAT MOST OF US AT THIS CONFERENCE SHARE A FEELING OF
URGENCY IN APPROACHING THIS MATTER.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 03717 01 OF 02 220732Z

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY IS INCREASING. FOOD

SHORTAGES, RESOURCE DEPLETION, POLLUTION, CONGESTION, UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, ROCKETING COSTS FOR FOOD AND FUEL CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY. EACH PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED AND BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE AS THE WORLD'S POPULATION GROWS.

IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, 20 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE ARE UNDERNOURISHED AND 60 PERCENT MALNOURISHED. IN MANY OF THE HEAVILY POPULATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FRESH WATER, AGRICULTURAL LAND, FORESTS, AND FISHERIES ARE ALMOST FULLY UTILIZED, AND MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IS PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE. AS POPULATIONS IN SUCH COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO GROW, THEY BECOME MORE DEPENDENT UPON OUTSIDE SUPPLIES. THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION PROJECTS THAT GLOBAL DEMAND FOR FRESH WATER WILL INCREASE 240 PERCENT BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. YESTERDAY A SPEAKER POINTED OUT THAT SUCH QUANTITIES OF WATER WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE WHERE NEEDED MOST. DESALINATING AND TRANSPORTING THE WATER WOULD SEEM TO BE TOO EXPENSIVE.

I WANT TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THE REMARKS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM SWEDEN, FRANCE, AND CANADA, WHO SO CAPABLY EMPHASIZED WHAT WE THINK ARE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC STORIES ABOUT RESOURCE AVAILABILITY IN THE WORLD. I WANT TO SUGGEST TO THOSE DELEGATES WHO HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT "UNLIMITED" RESOURCES AND "UNLIMITED" PRODUCTIVITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF AN UNLIMITED POPULATION, THAT THEY LISTEN TO THE WARNINGS ISSUED YESTERDAY IN THE PLENARY BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE FAO, MR. JACKSON, AND BY LESTER GROWN FROM THE POPULATION TRIBUNE. THESE EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND FOOD PRODUCTIVITY REPORTED THAT WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A VERY, VERY SERIOUS SITUATION. THEY SOUND A WARNING WHICH I SUGGEST ALL OF US LISTEN TO VERY, VERY CAREFULLY. WE ARE, I FEAR, FACING A SITUATION, WORLDWIDE, THE GARRET HARDIN DESCRIBED SIMPLY, BUT POWERFULLY, IN HIS STORY, "TRAGEDY OF THE COMMON." THE MESSAGE IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

A FARMER DECIDED TO GRAZE HIS SHEEP ON THE COMMON, A VILLAGE GREEN. HIS SHEEP GREW WELL ON THE PLENTIFUL GRASS THERE AND MULTIPLIED. THE FARMER PROSPERED AND WAS HAPPY. EVENTUALLY A SECOND FARMER, VIEWING THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST, PUT HIS SHEEP TO GRAZE ON THE COMMON; THEN A THIRD, A FOURTH, AND SO ON. SHORTLY, THE GRASS WAS OVERGRAZED AND IT DIED. SO DID THE SHEEP. THE FARMERS STATED TO FIGHT. THEY HAD, THROUGH THEIR

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 03717 01 OF 02 220732Z

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS, EXCEEDED THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE COMMON. THE SAME THING CAN HAPPEN ON OUR PLANET. IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED, IN FACT, IN THE SAHEL IN AFRICA, AND WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SAHEL CAN BE DUPLICATED ELSEWHERE. IN 1950, ABOUT 21 MILLION TONS OF FISH WERE CAUGHT IN THE WATERS OF THE WORLD. RAPIDLY GROWING FISHING FLEETS WITH EVEN MORE EFFICIENT FISHING EQUIPMENT RAISED THE CATCH TO 40 MILLION TONS BY 1960 AND TO 70 MILLION TONS BY 1970. BUT, THE CATCH BEGAN TO

DECLINE AFTER 1970 AND WAS 65 MILLION TONS LAST YEAR.
HAS MAN EXCEEDED THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE OCEANS? SOME THINK
THAT BY OVERFISHING ON THE ONE HAND AND BY POLLUTING NURSERY
GROUNDS AND ESTUARIES ON THE OTHER, HE HAS.
MAN HAS OFTEN ABUSED NATURAL RESOURCES AND CAUSED LOCAL CATASTRO-
PHIES. THE OKLAHOMA DUST BOWL IN THE UNITED STATES WAS ONE
EXAMPLE 40 YEARS AGO. THE OVERGRAZING IN THE SAHEL AND THE
FLOODING IN BANGLADESH, WHICH WAS CAUSED TO A GREAT DEGREE BY
EXCESSIVE DE-FORESTATION, ARE EXAMPLES OF PRESENT MAN-MADE
TRAGEDIES OF THE COMMON.
THE REACTION OF LOCAL FARMERS TO THE OKLAHOMA DUST BOWL WAS TO
MOVE TO CALIFORNIA. BUT TODAY IN MOST COUNTRIES WE HAVE RUN OUT
OF NEW PLACES TO WHICH TO MOVE. WE ARE RECEIVING WARNINGS THAT
THE EARTH'S CARRYING CAPACITY IS BEING STRAINED AND THAT THINGS
MUST CHANGE OR SURELY THERE WILL BE A LARGER TRAGEDY THAN THE
DEMISE OF A LOCAL COMMON.
WHILE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE NOT GIVE IN TO PANIC AT THE THREATS
OF WIDESPREAD FAMINE, POVERTY, AND SO FORTH, IT IS EQUALLY
IMPERATIVE THAT WE HEAD THE INCREASINGLY NUMEROUS WARNING THAT
BOTH MANKIND AND THE EARTH ARE ALREADY STRAINING TO SUPPORT THE
CURRENT POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 4 BILLION PEOPLE.
EACH PERSON ADDED TO THE WORLD INCREASES THE NEED FOR MORE
RESOURCES AND ADDS TO THE POLLUTION PRESSURE. IN THE MORE
AFFLUENT NATIONS, AN ADDITIONAL PERSON, ON THE AVERAGE, WILL FIND
HIS NEEDS FULFILLED IN ABUNDANCE. IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
AN ADDITIONAL PERSON, ON THE AVERAGE, WILL OBTAIN A BARE SUBSIS-
TENCE. THUS, THE FORMER WILL USE MORE RESOURCES AND CONTRIBUTE
MORE POLLUTION PRESSURE. IN BOTH CASES, HOWEVER, THE ADDITIONAL
PERSON WILL LOWER THE POTENTIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE
EXISTING POPULATION.

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03717 02 OF 02 220718Z

16
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3717

DEPARTMENT PASS COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

THE GAP BETWEEN CITIZENS IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS WIDENING WITH RESPECT TO WEALTH, FOOD SUPPLIES, ENERGY AVAILABLE, OTHER RESOURCES, HOUSING, AND SOCIAL SECURITY. THOUGH MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE MAKING SOME IMPROVEMENTS, RELATIVELY SPEAKING THEY ARE BEING LEFT FARTHER AND FARTHER BEHIND THE MORE RAPIDLY ADVANCING DEVELOPED NATIONS BECAUSE OF LARGE EXPANDING POPULATIONS AND LOW LEVELS OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE QUESTION IS, WILL WE HEED THE WARNINGS?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE DEPLETION ARE CRITICAL THREATS TO THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. BUT WILL WE DO WHAT MUST BE DONE TO BALANCE NEEDED ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH NECESSARY POLLUTION CONTROL AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES? WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS DONE SO IN THE PAST.

IN 1950, WHEN THE GROSS WORLD PRODUCT (GWP) REACHED ITS FIRST TRILLION, THERE WAS LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT POLLUTION. THE GWP IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BUCHAR 03717 02 OF 02 220718Z

NOW \$3.5 TRILLION AND WILL PROBABLY REACH \$12 TRILLION BY THE END OF THE CENTURY.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IS RECEIVING HIGH PRIORITY THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE WORLD TODAY, BECAUSE THE PRIME CAUSE OF POLLUTION--ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT--HAS INCREASED MORE THAN THREE-FOLD IN THE LAST 23 YEARS.

THE TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON THE ENVIRONMENT FROM INCREASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WILL CONTINUE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE DEVELOPING NATIONS NEED SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THEIR PEOPLE. BUT EVEN WITH A RAPID GROWTH IN THEIR PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DECADES, DEVELOPING NATIONS WILL STILL HAVE LESS OF AN IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION THAN WILL THE DEVELOPED NATIONS.

THUS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DEVELOPED NATIONS EMPHASIS ON POLLUTION CONTROL IS ESSENTIAL TO PREVENTING AN ECONOMIC AVALANCHE FROM FURTHER DESPOILING THE ENVIRONMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD BE MOST PRUDENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO LEARN AND APPLY

THESE LESSONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS IMPARTED TO THE MORE DEVELOPED PARTS OF THE WORLD: IT IS EASIER AND CHEAPER TO ESTABLISH CONTROLS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE BEGINNING OF AN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION THAN TO MOUNT A COUNTER-REVOLUTION TO CLEAN UP THE MESS FROM PAST ABUSES.

IT IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE THAT ALL NATIONS AND ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPED NATIONS MAKE THE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO STOP WASTE AND TO USE THEIR RESOURCES IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY. IN THE USE OF ENERGY, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION. IN OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A MAJOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM INVOLVING WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

AS PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WORK TO ASSURE EVERY HUMAN BEING A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO WORK TO PROVIDE EVERYONE AN ADEQUATE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, FOOD HEALTH CARE AND SHELTER. IN DOING THIS, PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION OF OUR RESOURCES ARE BASIC. BUT PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS THE NEED TO REDUCE THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS FOR WHOM THE BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE WILL NEED TO BE PROVIDED.

IN THE UNITED STATES, FERTILITY HAS BEEN DECLINING STEADILY FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND IS NOW BELOW THE LEVEL NECESSARY FOR PARENTS TO REPLACE THEMSELVES. I PERSONALLY HOPE THE BIRTH RATE IN

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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 03717 02 OF 02 220718Z

THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO DROP UNTIL A STABLE POPULATION IS REACHED. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ACTIVELY MADE FAMILY PLANNING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO COULD NOT OTHERWISE AFFORD IT. OUR CITIZENS ARE USING THESE SERVICES WHICH HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN REACHING THE REPLACEMENT BIRTH LEVEL. PARENTS IN OUR COUNTRY ARE EXERCISING THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS TO DETERMINE FREELY THE NUMBER AND SPACING OF THEIR CHILDREN. THE MARKEDLY IMPROVED STATUS OF WOMEN IN OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR HERE.

THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND FAMILY PLANNING HAS BEEN NOTED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE U.N., HELVI SIPILA. COUNTRIES SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FULLY INTEGRATE WOMEN INTO ALL ASPECTS OF SOCIETY. IN THE UNITED STATES, WOMEN ARE ENTERING ALL FIELDS IN GREATER NUMBERS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ENROLLMENT OF WOMEN IN MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOLS HAD DOUBLED IN THE LAST YEAR. WHEN THE TALENTS OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE UTILIZED, DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE ENHANCED. IN RECENT YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS, THROUGH A MAJOR EFFORT ON POLLUTION ABATEMENT AND CONTROL, DONE MUCH TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON THE WORLD'S ECOSYSTEM.

THE DECLINE IN THE GROWTH IN THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS AND THE INCREASE IN THE GROWTH OF SERVICE INDUSTRIES HAS, SIMILARLY, REDUCED THE IMPACT OF COMMERCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT. MOST OF THE GROWTH IN OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY IS IN THE SERVICE SECTOR AND IT IS PREDICTED THAT THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

WILL CONTINUE TO BE FROM SERVICE, NOT PRODUCTION.
BUT WE REALIZE THAT OUR EFFORTS TO BALANCE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND
PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT WILL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IF WE
CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH. AS
THE U.S. POPULATION COMMISSION POINTED OUT A COUPLE OF YEARS
AGO, THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY A LARGE INCREASE IN
OUR POPULATION. THIS FINDING ACCEPTS THE FACT THAT THE CARRYING
CAPACITY OF THE UNITED STATES IS LIMITED. THE CARRYING CAPACITY
OF THE WORLD IS LIKEWISE LIMITED AND WE MUST STRIVE TOGETHER
TO SEE THAT IT IS NOT EXCEEDED.
THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY ENDORSES THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN
OF ACTION CALLING FOR PARENTS TO DETERMINE FREELY THE SIZE OF
THEIR FAMILIES, BECAUSE THAT PLAN, WHICH IS BEFORE THIS CONFERENCE,
IS AIMED AT ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
ON EARTH AND THE PLANET'S CARRYING CAPACITY AND, THUS, WILL
PREVENT A TRAGEDY--NOT FOR ONE SMALL VILLAGE COMMON, BUT FOR THE
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PAGE 04 BUCAR 03717 02 OF 02 220718Z

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